



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1042

cremation

Purpose

Adds *natural organic reduction* as a statutorily allowed method of cremation and modifies the definitions of *cremation*, *cremated remains* and *processed cremated remains*.

Background

The Department of Health Services (DHS) and the DHS Funeral Services Licensing Advisory Committee oversee the funeral services industry following the 2023 termination of the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. DHS enforces funeral service regulations, collects regulatory fees and administers licensure and registration of funeral establishments and professionals ([A.R.S Title 32, Chapter 12](#)).

Cremation is the heating process that reduces human remains to bone fragments by combustion and evaporation. *Cremated remains* are the bone fragments remaining after cremation. *Processed cremated remains* are cremated remains after they are pulverized and cleaned. DHS may take disciplinary action against a crematory or a crematory agent or employee (crematory) if the crematory introduces an additional dead human body or cremated remains into a cremation chamber or processor before reasonable efforts have been made to remove all fragments of the previously cremated or processed remains without written consent (A.R.S. §§ [32-1301](#) and [32-1398](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Defines *natural organic reduction* as the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.
2. Expands the definition of *cremation* to include the reduction of human remains to soil by natural organic reduction.
3. Requires a crematory to make a reasonable effort to remove all soil remaining in a cremation chamber or processor after a cremation or processing before introducing an additional dead human body or cremated remains into the cremation chamber or processor.
4. Modifies the definition of *cremated remains* to include soil remaining after cremation.
5. Modifies the definition of *processed cremated remains* to include soil remaining after the pulverization and cleaning of cremated remains.

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6. Makes technical and conforming changes.
7. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research
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MG/JC/cs